



MEDIA RELEASE

SUMMER READING FOR KIDS & TEENS

“Dream Big, READ!” Program at Public Libraries

Santa Barbara, CA May 30, 2012

The Santa Barbara Public Library System's annual Summer Reading Program is designed to encourage young people to read during summer vacation. This year's theme is “Dream Big, READ!” The program begins Saturday, June 9 at all the branches of the library system, and concludes on Tuesday, July 31.

Starting June 9, children and teens can sign up at their local library and receive a reading log, or visit the library system online to register at SBPLibrary.org. Once registered, participants can track their progress online, as well. Participants are invited to return to any of the library branches to earn prizes when they tell teen volunteers about their favorite books. Through the support of the various Friends of the Library groups, all libraries present free weekly family performances featuring guest musicians, magicians, storytellers, animal educators, puppeteers and more. The more a child reads, the more prizes he or she earns. The library system's complete calendar of programs is also available from the website. Children of all ages can get their own library card with parental signature.

The Teen Summer Reading Program welcomes middle and high school students to the Library to “read, visit the library, complete fun activities, earn prizes, repeat.” Teens earn grab bag prizes and chances in a drawing when they keep track of the books they read and activities completed. Such activities include “take a ‘dreamy’ photo and share it at the Library” or “invite a friend to the Library to sign up for summer reading,” and are meant to inspire conversations and encourage involvement.

Interested teens may also earn Community Service hours by volunteering and assisting staff with the children's summer program. Volunteer opportunities are available at [all](#) public libraries.

Teens from age 13 to age 17 do not need parental signature to get a library card. Many new young adult titles have been added to the book collections to keep teen readers

supplied with new and classic books. Additionally, free ebooks and audiobooks, including new releases, can be downloaded from the library system's website, SBPLibrary.org from any computer with an Internet connection.

The library offers the annual summer reading program as a way to encourage children and teens to read over the summer months. Research has shown that students who read over the summer retain or even improve their literacy skills.

For further information about the kids' and teens summer reading program visit SBPLibrary.org. All library programs are free and open to the public. Incentives and special programming are funded by the Friends of the Library.

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